

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

10027203-122604
Sub A. 1. A fence panel for tracking a sloped grade of a
5 portion of a terrain surface for attaching to adjacent ones of
the fence panel to define an elongate length of fencing along
the terrain surface, comprising:

10 a first rail disposed parallel and spaced-apart from a
second rail, said rails defining a longitudinal length of a
fence panel and each rail defining opposing first and second
side edges, said rails disposed at an angle relative to
horizontal; and

15 a plurality of spaced-apart pickets defining a pair of
opposing outer pickets and a plurality of inner pickets, said
pickets disposed substantially perpendicular to horizontal,
said inner pickets attached to the first and the second rails
by fasteners between the respective picket and the first side
edge of the first rail and between the respective picket and
the second side edge of the second rail, and said outer
20 pickets attached to the first and the second rails by
fasteners between the respective outer picket and the second

side edge of the first rail and between the respective picket and the first side edge of the second rail,

whereby the fence panel, being racked by moving opposing ends of the panel in opposing directions transverse to the longitudinal axis of the rails, conforms the slope of the rails substantially to the slope of the portion of the ground surface by changing the angle between the pickets and the rails while the pickets remain substantially perpendicular to horizontal.

10

2. The fence panel as recited in claim 1, wherein the fasteners comprise flexible mild steel welds.

3. The fence panel as recited in claim 1, further comprising a pair of end posts attached to opposing ends of the rails, whereby adjacent fence panels connect to the end posts to define a longitudinal section of a fence.

10027203-1336043

4. The fence panel as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

angle members, each having a first and a second leg, the first leg of each angle member attached to a distal end of one
5 of the rails and the second leg defining a pair of holes;

screws extending through the holes to secure the rails to a respective one of the fence posts.

5. The fence panel as recited in claim 1, wherein the
10 fence panel is selectively racked during installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to the angle at which the rails are disposed when the rails and pickets are initially attached together.

15 6. The fence panel as recited in claim 1, wherein the angle at which the rails are disposed is between about 0 degrees and 60 degrees.

10022003-122001

7. The fence panel as recited in claim 6, wherein the fence panel is selectively racked during installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to the angle at which the rails are disposed when the rails and pickets are initially
5 attached together.

8. The fence panel as recited in claim 1, wherein the angle at which the rails are disposed is selected from the group comprising the angles of 0 degrees, 20 degree, 40
10 degree, and 60 degrees.

9. The fence panel as recited in claim 8, wherein the fence panel is selectively racked during installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to the angle at which the
15 rails are disposed when the rails and pickets are initially attached together.

10. The fence panel as recited in claim 1, wherein the rails are four-wall tubular members.

11. The fence panel as recited in claim 1, further comprising angle members, each having a first and a second leg, the first leg of each angle member attached to a distal end of one of the rails and the second leg defining a pair of
5 holes for receiving screws for attaching to a fence post.

10027203:122604

12. A fence panel readily adjustable to track substantially a slope of a terrain during installation thereof, comprising:

5 a pair of elongate rails disposed in parallel spaced-apart relation and at an angle relative to horizontal to define a longitudinal length of a fence panel, the rails each defining opposing first and second side edges;

10 a plurality of inner pickets attached to the first and the second rails by fasteners between the respective picket and the first side edge of the first rail and between the respective picket and the second side edge of the second rail;

15 a pair of opposing outer pickets attached to the first and the second rails by fasteners between the respective outer picket and the second side edge of the first rail and between the respective outer picket and the first side edge of the second rail,

20 whereby the fence panel during installation in a fence over a terrain is adjustable to the slope of a portion of the terrain by moving opposing ends of the panel in opposing directions transverse to the longitudinal axis of the rails while the pickets remain substantially perpendicular to horizontal.

10027203 122601

14. The fence panel as recited in claim 13, wherein the
5 angle at which the rails are disposed is between about 0
degrees and 60 degrees. ;

15. The fence panel as recited in claim 14, wherein the fence panel is selectively racked during installation between about 0 and 20 degrees relative to the angle at which the rails are disposed when the rails and pickets are initially attached together.

16. The fence panel as recited in claim 15, further
15 comprising a pair of end posts attached to opposing ends of
the rails, whereby adjacent fence panels connect to the end
posts to define a longitudinal section of a fence.

17. The fence panel as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

angle members, each having a first and a second leg, the first leg of each angle member attached to a distal end of one
5 of the rails and the second leg defining a pair of holes;

screws extending through the holes to secure the rails to a respective one of the fence posts.

18. The fence panel as recited in claim 16, wherein the
10 rails are four-wall tubular members.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

19. A method of making a fence section for tracking a sloped grade during installation of a fence over a terrain, comprising the steps of:

(a) disposing a first rail parallel and spaced-apart from
5 a second rail at an angle to a horizontal plane to define a longitudinal length of a fence panel, the rails defining opposing first and second side edges;

(b) attaching a plurality of inner pickets to the rails substantially perpendicular to the horizontal plane with
10 fasteners between the pickets and the first side edge of the first rail and the second side edge of the second rail;

(c) attaching a pair of opposing outer pickets at opposing ends of the rails substantially perpendicular to the horizontal plane by fasteners between the pickets and the
15 second side edge of the first rail and the first side edge of the second rail,

whereby the fence section, being racked by moving opposing ends of the section in opposing directions transverse to the longitudinal axis of the rails, conforms the slope of
20 the rails substantially to the slope of the portion of the terrain by changing the angle between the pickets and the

100272003-122604

rails while the pickets remain substantially perpendicular to horizontal.

100272003-422601